



# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development  
Office of Economic Advisors

## FOR SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

KENOSHA, RACINE AND WALWORTH COUNTIES

February 2004

### A Seasonal Increase in Unemployment Rates in January

The **Kenosha MSA** monthly unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) in January increased by six-tenths of a percentage point to 5.8 percent in January. Monthly labor force estimates show an increase in the numbers of employed and unemployed of approximately 600 each. Compared to January 2003, Kenosha County's labor force has 1,200

more employed and 560 fewer unemployed. The unemployment rate is seven-tenths of a point lower than it was in January 2003.

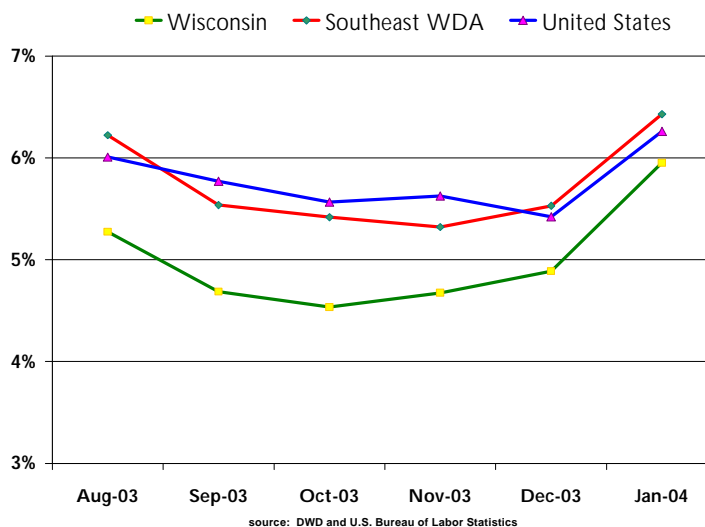
Kenosha County's nonfarm wage and salary industry employment figures indicate 400 fewer jobs overall in January compared to December. The largest loss was a seasonal decrease in education/

health services employment, -200 jobs. Remaining industries' changes in January were fairly subdued with slight losses or gains throughout both services-providing and goods-producing sectors. Manufacturing employment showed a slight gain of 100 jobs. Retail trade decreased seasonally by 100 jobs.

Kenosha's annual tally shows 200 fewer jobs overall with a mixed performance among the sectors. Manufacturing showed a decrease of 800 jobs, while education and health services gained 600 since last January. Despite the overall loss of industry employment annually, only two other sectors besides manufacturing showed a loss, leisure and hospitality; and transportation, warehousing and utilities, -400 and -100 jobs, respectively.

**Racine MSA's** not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by nine-tenths of a percentage point to 7.9 percent with the number of employed virtually un-

#### Six-Month Unemployment Rate Watch



### Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Southeast Wisconsin counties: January 2004

|              | Wisconsin       |           |           | Kenosha County |         |         | Racine County |             |             |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|---------|---------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
|              | Jan-04          | Dec-03    | Jan-03    | Jan-04         | Dec-03  | Jan-03  | Jan-04        | Dec-03      | Jan-03      |
| Labor force  | 3,086,003       | 3,065,115 | 3,025,810 | 84,640         | 83,437  | 83,983  | 93,691        | 92,714      | 93,857      |
| Employed     | 2,902,336       | 2,915,293 | 2,823,602 | 79,712         | 79,123  | 78,497  | 86,256        | 86,263      | 85,311      |
| Unemployed   | 183,667         | 149,822   | 202,208   | 4,928          | 4,314   | 5,486   | 7,435         | 6,451       | 8,546       |
| % Unemployed | 6.0%            | 4.9%      | 6.7%      | 5.8%           | 5.2%    | 6.5%    | 7.9%          | 7.0%        | 9.1%        |
|              | Walworth County |           |           | Southeast WDA  |         |         | United States |             |             |
|              | Jan-04          | Dec-03    | Jan-03    | Jan-04         | Dec-03  | Jan-03  | Jan-04        | Dec-03      | Jan-03      |
| Labor force  | 55,822          | 55,421    | 53,861    | 234,153        | 231,572 | 231,701 | 146,068,000   | 146,501,000 | 145,301,000 |
| Employed     | 53,134          | 53,382    | 50,808    | 219,102        | 218,768 | 214,616 | 136,924,000   | 138,556,000 | 135,907,000 |
| Unemployed   | 2,688           | 2,039     | 3,053     | 15,051         | 12,804  | 17,085  | 9,144,000     | 7,945,000   | 9,395,000   |
| % Unemployed | 4.8%            | 3.7%      | 5.7%      | 6.4%           | 5.5%    | 7.4%    | 6.3%          | 5.4%        | 6.5%        |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Figures are not seasonally adjusted and current month's data are preliminary

## Industry Employment Estimates for Southeast Wisconsin - January 2004

|                                    | Wisconsin                        |                            |       | Kenosha County                   |                            |      | Racine County                    |                            |      | Walworth County                  |                            |      | Southeast WDA                    |                            |      |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|------|
| Employment in 1,000's              | Diff.<br>since<br>Dec-<br>Jan-04 | Diff.<br>since<br>Jan-2003 |       | Diff.<br>since<br>Dec-<br>Jan-04 | Diff.<br>since<br>Jan-2003 |      | Diff.<br>since<br>Dec-<br>Jan-04 | Diff.<br>since<br>Jan-2003 |      | Diff.<br>since<br>Dec-<br>Jan-04 | Diff.<br>since<br>Jan-2003 |      | Diff.<br>since<br>Dec-<br>Jan-04 | Diff.<br>since<br>Jan-2003 |      |
| All Industries                     | 2,741.1                          | -52.8                      | 30.6  | 53.4                             | -0.4                       | -0.2 | 77.1                             | -1.4                       | -0.7 | 40.8                             | -1.0                       | 0.9  | 171.3                            | -2.8                       | 0.0  |
| Construction/Natural Resources     | 116.1                            | -9.4                       | 4.3   | 2.1                              | -0.1                       | 0.0  | 3.3                              | -0.3                       | 0.1  | 1.5                              | -0.3                       | 0.0  | 6.9                              | -0.7                       | 0.1  |
| Manufacturing                      | 497.5                            | -3.9                       | -11.8 | 9.9                              | 0.1                        | -0.8 | 19.1                             | -0.2                       | -1.0 | 8.9                              | 0.0                        | -0.1 | 37.9                             | -0.1                       | -1.9 |
| Total Trade                        | 439.7                            | -6.9                       | 14.2  | 8.7                              | -0.1                       | 0.1  | 12.2                             | -0.4                       | -0.2 | 5.7                              | -0.2                       | 0.3  | 26.6                             | -0.7                       | 0.2  |
| Retail Trade                       | 327.1                            | -6.4                       | 12.9  | 6.7                              | -0.1                       | 0.1  | 9.3                              | -0.3                       | -0.2 | xx                               | xx                         | xx   | xx                               | xx                         | xx   |
| Wholesale Trade                    | 112.6                            | -0.5                       | 1.3   | 2.0                              | 0.0                        | 0.0  | 2.9                              | -0.1                       | 0.0  | xx                               | xx                         | xx   | xx                               | xx                         | xx   |
| Transport/Warehouse/Utilities      | 104.4                            | -3.8                       | 1.6   | 1.6                              | 0.0                        | -0.1 | 2.0                              | 0.0                        | 0.0  | 1.1                              | 0.0                        | -0.1 | 4.7                              | 0.0                        | -0.2 |
| Financial Activities               | 159.8                            | -0.3                       | 5.5   | 1.8                              | 0.0                        | 0.2  | 2.8                              | 0.0                        | 0.2  | 1.1                              | 0.0                        | 0.1  | 5.7                              | 0.0                        | 0.5  |
| Education and Health Services      | 371.7                            | -2.2                       | 11.9  | 8.1                              | -0.2                       | 0.6  | 10.4                             | -0.1                       | 0.3  | 3.7                              | 0.0                        | 0.0  | 22.2                             | -0.3                       | 0.9  |
| Leisure and Hospitality            | 233.5                            | -3.5                       | 7.9   | 5.7                              | 0.0                        | -0.4 | 6.2                              | 0.0                        | 0.2  | 6.7                              | 0.1                        | -0.2 | 18.6                             | 0.1                        | -0.4 |
| Info./Prof./Bus.and Other Services | 417.9                            | -5.4                       | 0.8   | 6.3                              | 0.1                        | 0.2  | 11.2                             | -0.1                       | 0.0  | 4.7                              | -0.3                       | 0.1  | 22.2                             | -0.3                       | 0.3  |
| Information                        | 49.2                             | -0.3                       | -1.5  | 0.5                              | 0.1                        | 0.1  | 0.7                              | 0.1                        | 0.0  | xx                               | xx                         | xx   | xx                               | xx                         | xx   |
| Professional and Business Services | 241.6                            | -2.7                       | 6.7   | 3.1                              | 0.0                        | 0.1  | 5.9                              | -0.1                       | 0.1  | xx                               | xx                         | xx   | xx                               | xx                         | xx   |
| Other Services                     | 127.1                            | -2.4                       | -4.4  | 2.7                              | 0.0                        | 0.0  | 4.6                              | -0.1                       | -0.1 | xx                               | xx                         | xx   | xx                               | xx                         | xx   |
| Fed/State/Local Government         | 400.5                            | -17.4                      | -3.8  | 9.2                              | -0.2                       | 0.0  | 9.9                              | -0.3                       | -0.3 | 7.4                              | -0.2                       | 0.9  | 26.5                             | -0.7                       | 0.6  |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Current Employment Statistics. Figures are rounded and may not sum to total. Current month's figures are preliminary

changed and the unemployed increasing by almost 1,000 since December. Like the other southeast counties and the state, its unemployment rate decreased in an annual comparison. January's rate is 1.2 percent points lower than the rate of 9.1 percent registered in January 2003.

Racine's industry employment decreased over the month by 1,400 jobs, overall, in January. Total government and retail trade showed the largest employment decreases combining for a 600 job decrease. Information employment gained 100 jobs. Transportation, warehousing and utilities; and leisure and hospitality employment were unchanged.

Compared to January 2003, Racine County shows a net decrease of 700 jobs. Manufacturing employment shows a deficit of 1,000 jobs. Due to annual revision of industry employment figures many of the monthly 2003 estimates have changed. This has given a new perspective of the employment gains and losses in Racine County. A more complete picture of Racine County's industry performance over the last couple of years will be avail-

able in one month as the final revisions to 2003 and 2002 data become available. At this time, with preliminary January 2004 data, this is the first month in many to show an annual loss of overall industry employment with the manufacturing decrease holding most of the weight of the overall decline. On a brighter note, almost every other sector in the county shows employment gains or has maintained employment levels.

**Walworth County's** unemployment rate increased 1.1 percent points to 4.8 percent. The number of employed residents decreased by 250 over the month and the number of unemployed increased by 650. Opposite dynamics occurred from an annual perspective as Walworth shows over 2,300 more employed and about 370 fewer unemployed. These annual changes have lowered the unemployment rate by nine-tenths of a percent point compared to January 2003.

Walworth County's total nonfarm wage and salary industry employment estimates are lower by 1,000 jobs compared to December's estimates. The monthly losses

were spread among a variety of sectors with construction employment, retail trade and business services employment showing the largest decreases. Manufacturing employment was unchanged at close to 8,900 jobs, which is the county's largest employment sector. Walworth's industry employment is seasonal and will gain numbers as the weather warms.

Annually, there are 900 more jobs overall. Government employment showed a 900-job gain and total trade shows 300 more. Business services; manufacturing; transportation, warehousing and utilities; and leisure and hospitality all have posted annual employment decreases.

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